

without risking penalty from the federal government. TPA is pleased that the conference committee offers a plan that sharply curtails government while giving power back to hard-working Americans.

TPA urges every Congressman to vote YES on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

#### CLUB FOR GROWTH.

Re key vote alert—"YES" on Conference Report to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, H.R. 1.

The Club for Growth supports the conference report to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (HR 1) and we urge all members of Congress to vote YES on it. A vote is expected in the next few days. The vote will be included in the Club's 2017 congressional scorecard. This bill is not perfect, but it's still very pro-growth. Some of the more pro-growth elements of the bill include lowering the corporate tax rate down to 21%, a new 20% deduction for pass-through businesses, doubling the Death Tax exemption, and moving to an international territorial tax system. The bill also modestly lowers individual tax rates and doubles the standard deduction.

The Club for Growth urges immediate passage of HR 1. Congress should also begin work on another pro-growth tax bill for next year that addresses other parts of the tax code left untouched by this proposal.

Our Congressional Scorecard for the 115th Congress provides a comprehensive rating of how well or how poorly each member of Congress supports pro-growth, free-market policies and will be distributed to our members and to the public.

#### FREEDOMWORKS.

KEY VOTE YES ON THE CONFERENCE REPORT FOR THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT, H.R. 1

On behalf of our activist community, I urge you to contact your representative and senators and ask them to vote YES on the conference report for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, H.R. 1. This final agreement on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act provides much-needed relief to taxpayers across the country and to American businesses alike.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowers individual rates for the vast majority of taxpayers. In addition, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act nearly doubles the standard deduction, meaning Americans keep more of their hard-earned money, and doubles the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000. This bill also provides relief by doubling the exemption amount from the unfair death tax.

Pass-through business owners, who file their taxes on their individual tax return, will be able to take a 20 percent deduction. This lowers the tax burden currently faced by pass-through businesses, which, according to the Tax Foundation, employ 70 million people, and promotes fairness.

America's business community will also see added growth as a result of the policy changes in this bill. The corporate tax rate will be lowered substantially from 35 percent to 21 percent, making American businesses more globally competitive and allowing them the resources they need to innovate and create jobs. It also eliminates confusion and complexity so job creators can focus on building their company and hiring working Americans.

This bill also repeals the harmful ObamaCare individual mandate, a coercive tax on Americans. It's estimated that 80 percent of households subject to this tax earn less than \$50,000 per year. This is an unnecessary hardship being placed on working Americans. The federal government should not punish individuals who cannot afford ObamaCare's costly health insurance plans or decide it is not the best course for them.

For these reasons, I urge you to call your representative and senators and ask them to vote YES on the conference report for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, H.R. 1. FreedomWorks will count the vote on our 2017 Congressional Scorecard. The scorecard is used to determine eligibility for the FreedomFighter Award, which recognizes Members of the House and Senate who consistently vote to support economic freedom and individual liberty.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNION OF NIGERIAN FRIENDS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 20, 2017*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Union of Nigerian Friends for its 30 years of service to Forest Hill and the North Texas community.

In 1987, the Union of Nigerian Friends was founded in order to provide a safe environment for dialogue on issues that affect the political, economic, and social progress for Nigerians here in my home state of Texas. Since its establishment 30 years ago, the Union of Nigerian Friends continues to promote cultural awareness and unity among all Nigerians and Americans, while serving as a shining example of civic engagement for our community.

The Union of Nigerian Friends takes great pride in its active civic participation through its numerous community partnerships in the areas of business, family recreation and education. For their longstanding excellence in community engagement Mayor Lyndia Thomas of the city of Forest Hill, Texas recognized the Union of Nigerian Friends for their success.

I honor the Union of Nigerian Friends 30th anniversary celebration.

### TRIBUTE TO JEAN AND HOWARD GILLESPIE

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 20, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Jean and Howard Gillespie of Red Oak, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on September 20, 2017.

Jean and Howard's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 65th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 65th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them nothing but the best.

### IN HONOR OF ALEXANDRIA WINNING CLASS 5A WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL STATE TITLE

#### HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 20, 2017*

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask for the House's attention today to recognize Alexandria High School for winning the Class 5A State Title.

The Valley Cubs sealed their victory by beating Lawrence County High School on November 2nd at Bill Harris Arena in Birmingham in three sets for the Class 5A State Title: 25-23, 25-16, 25-13.

The Head Coach is Whitney Welch and Assistant Coaches are Kelli Johnson and Toni Hess. Players include: Kendal Bumpus, Madison Chastain, Kinsley Gregoria, Kaitlin Harvey, Anna Johnson, Kate Johnson, China Lane, Gracie Muncher (All-State Team), Aubrey Pope (All State Team), Kyleigh Rhodes, Taylor Spradley (Class 5A MVP), Kameron Simpson, Kayleigh Steen and Mattie Wade (All State Team).

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the students and faculty of Alexandria High School, the coaches, the players and all the Valley Cubs fans on this exciting achievement. Go Valley Cubs.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 20, 2017*

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 697.

### TRIBUTE TO NIX LAURIDSEN

#### HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 20, 2017*

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Nix Lauridsen of Des Moines, Iowa, for his induction to the 2017 Iowa Business Hall of Fame.

The Greater Des Moines Committee founded the Iowa Business Hall of Fame in 1975 to honor Iowans who have helped to enhance the state's business climate. Nix is the co-founder and chairman of Lauridsen Group, Inc which oversees several independent companies that operate processing plants worldwide. Gaining his first experience in the processing industry at his father's rendering plant Boyer Valley, Nix's companies have pioneered the development of value-added products from the separation of plasma from red cells, as well as adding plasma to swine diet that reduced baby pig mortality from 10 percent to 2 percent. Outside of business, Nix has been a major advocate for education and the arts in Des Moines.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize Nix on his induction to the 2017 Iowa Business